



**EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 5:00 pm  
Edgartown School Library**

**AGENDA**

- I. Approval of Minutes from November 9, 2022 and November 30, 2022**
- II. PTA Report**
- III. Finance Report**
  - A. Donations
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
  - A. General Update
  - B. Special Education Update – Hope MacLeod
- V. Principal's Report**
  - A. FY24 Budget Presentation and Possible Vote
  - B. Enrollment
  - C. Personnel
    - 1. Retirements
    - 2. Leave of Absence Requests
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. New/Old Business**
- VIII. Schedule Next Meeting(s)**
- IX. Adjournment**

## EDGARTOWN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 14, 2022  
Edgartown School Library

### MINUTES

**Present** Chair, Kimberly Kirk, Laura Seguin.

Others: Supt. Dr. Richard Smith, Amy Tierney, Town Accountant, Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator, Dr. Shelley Einbinder, James Hagerty, Town Administrator Art Smadback, Margaret Serpa, Les Baynes, Edgartown Selectmen, Julia Tarka, Finance Committee, Nedine Cunningham, Finance Committee/Social Studies Teacher Amy Heil, PTA, Janet Hurley, Special Education, Justen Foster, Science Teacher, Sue Costello, Health Teacher, Debbie Grant, Kindergarten Teacher, Debbie DeBettencourt, Guidance Counselor

The meeting was called to order by Kimberly Kirk at 5:09.

1. Approval of minutes from November 9 and November 30

Kim Kirk made a motion to approve the minutes and Laura Seguin seconded.

The motion passed: 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

2. **PTA Report** - presented by Amy Heil. She expressed thanks to Leah Palmer who attended a recent PTA meeting and shared resources. The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 2:45pm in the Staff Dining Room.

3. **Finance report** - approval of donations:

\$1,500. 8th Grade Trip - Anonymous Donation

\$1,200. Basketball Uniforms - Edgartown Police Department

\$ 750. Dine to Donate - Town Restaurant

4. **Superintendent Report:**

Dr. Smith informed us that the all island SC meeting will be Wednesday night, December 21 at 6:15 hybrid, where he will talk about where our schools are. Update status report four months into the school year 6 months into the fiscal year.

Eight people out of ten in the central office finance and payroll department are new to their positions and we are meeting those challenges. Building projects will move us forward - and we will constantly evaluate where we are at because of this.

**Principals' report** - Budget Presentation by Dr. Einbinder.

Thank you to the Edgartown Select Board and Finance Committee for being here tonight.

Shelley presented slides including Enrollment totals on the increase - special education at 24%. ELL student population - at 92 this year which has stayed average at 22.9%.

Free and Reduced lunch is at 47.50% which has stayed the same.

Projected school enrollment through NESDEC will exceed 500 students by 2030. Exact enrollment is not always correct but the trend is. Class profile/size - we average 18 students in a classroom.

Other information presented included the number of students who are home schooled or sent to other schools for school choice as well as the number of school choice students we receive.

Percentage of teachers at the top step of the pay schedule is 58%.

Total expenditure per pupil is \$27,203.

Contractual obligations that make up the majority of the school budget - 86.30%.

At the last meeting, Draft #2 of the budget was presented, stating the case for 2 ½ more positions next school year - one for a special education teacher currently funded through circuit breaker funds. The second for a middle school literacy and math specialist. The final .5 increase was to increase the band teacher position to full time due to the tremendous increase in interest in band.

Mark talked about the shared services budget and how it factors into the % increase for Edgartown. Shared services budget for FY '24 increase is 5.79% The items that weren't essential for next year were eliminated. Shared services funds predominantly the special programs - Bridge, Project Headway, therapeutic services, Compass. This is the particular budget that was most affected by the collective bargaining units. Only one new position is added to this budget and dependent on the current needs of the Project Headway. The financial shared services percentage per school is based on population. The overall for Edgartown is a little bit above the 5.79%. Slide shows the shared services and budget increases over time.

The total increase amounts to 6.75%. Shared services, Salaries and obligations account for 6.48%. There are increases in fuel in heating oil, transportation as well.

The plan is to submit this budget now.

At the last meeting, presented the Outdoor Learning Campus proposed revitalization project - including modern ADA compliant, shaded outdoor classroom.

Questions about the presentation:

Art - with the projections for numbers of students, are we projecting for the number of classrooms as far as the need for new classrooms. Trend that raises the total by 25% in 2030, Do we need to start thinking about this now?

Shelley - This year, we have teachers sharing spaces - room dividers. Shifting of the use of space to accommodate the increasing numbers.

Kim - It is an issue that we will have to deal with in the coming years. Teachers have been accommodating - we will have to come up with a better long term solution.

Art - Stay in close contact with the town administrator - You want to make sure that there are no surprises.

Richie - There are ways to address the increase in numbers - can schedule to accommodate for a little while without building.

Richie - In 21 years the schools have not grown over all on the island - The demographics have changed and the way we use our classrooms has changed.

When you look at the class sizes - we have maintained a lower class size. We have done a great job of keeping class sizes small.

Les - class size - third highest in the decade - when it pushes 18 - I'd like to go the other way.

Can't believe 500. Arty's question is right. So many things are coming down the pike- competing with infrastructure. When we hear about room dividers - there's a toll - you have to move teachers and students - MV is a popular place - I wouldn't put it off. We will be competing. Small class size is the best education. Class size is important. I haven't heard that larger size is ever good.

Kim - Going down the road - we do need to have planning in place. Scheduling.

James - Are there any anticipated residential placements for 2024? Shelley / Richie - No - not in this district.

We accommodate the schedule of the town. We vote.

Kim Made a motion to approve the FY '24 budget as presented by Dr. Einbinder.

Laura seconds

Kim - great - kept it tight, but continued to provide for what is needed.

All those in favor - in favor. Budget passes with 2 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Enrollment - two new students before Christmas, two in January.

Since September, the total number hasn't changed significantly.

Personnel. Two retirements - Sue Costello - health teacher who has been here for 22 years.

Sorry to see her go. Wish her all the best.

Second is from Greg Pattison - shared industrial arts teacher planning to retire.

Kim - Best wishes to Sue - sad to see you go - You have done an amazing job -

Richie - Sue Costello has been single handedly kept the health and wellness program going - the curriculum - one of the people we lean on when we consider what we are doing district wide.

Shelley - Sue said she hoped I would keep her in mind for any kind of special projects and for long term subs.

Kim - Greg Pattison, we wish him the very best.

Two leave of absence requests:

Connie - on medical leave plans to be out for six weeks. Expects to return at the end of January.

Gail Gardner - out through the month of December.

Kim - make a motion to approve Connie and Gail's leave. Seconded by Laura. All in favor.

Motion approved.

Kim - Thanks to the Edgartown Select board, Finance Committee and Town Administrator - to come and hear about projects including the outdoor learning project - started out small and has gotten a little bit bigger. Very excited about that option going forward.

Les - the ELL population - Are we being proactive - Are we trying to make sure these kids stay here? We do it through staffing - Leah has created a community - to try to make it more palpable to stay here to prevent them from going. Culturally being responsive to the differing needs they may have. From a deficit standpoint but from a create the community. It's tough to get involved when these are parental decisions. If a child is out of school for two weeks we unenroll them - if they are gone for a month, they need to provide proof of residency - school choice to finish out a school year. Variables - class sizes. The population has grown tremendously. Looking at the ability for the child to finish up the school year. Supportive of the family - and teachers. We're looking at ways to be more sensitive to the moves. We might make it more child friendly, family friendly. At the end of the year if there is a hard decision to be made that a child has to move to another school.

Food insecurity. Lots of pressure and issues involved. When kids come with needs it impacts the school.

James - met with the police chief and highway - We are going to repaint the crosswalk and cut back the bushes at the road so we can mitigate anything further at that intersection - prevent what happened yesterday again.

Kim - Express our best wishes to the student - I understand he is back at school.

We had a Winter Concert on Monday night - first in three years - more than 400 people attended.

Schedule our next meeting is January 4, 2023 at 5:30pm

Motion to adjourn. 5:49